

Senate Democrats 2006

CONNECTICUT JOBS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

An Economic Development Plan
for Connecticut's Future



Broadening Prosperity
for Connecticut Citizens



Making Connecticut Competitive in
Maintaining and Creating Jobs



Unlocking the Gridlock



Working Toward Energy Independence

Connecticut Jobs for the 21st Century



Broadening Prosperity for Connecticut Citizens

- **Incentives for Health Care Coverage**—Provide incentives (tax credits, rebates, cash) to companies that provide wellness programs, smoking cessation programs, discounts on gym memberships, etc.
- **Connecticut Cancer Initiative**—Begin to invest in the prevention and early detection of cancer, with a focus on underserved populations by providing access to smoking cessation programs through Medicaid and increase screening for breast, and cervical, and colorectal cancers
- **Bridging the Digital Divide**—Expand access to high-speed wireless broadband communications in urban and rural locations
- **Earned Income Tax Credit**—Provide a refundable income tax credit to low-income working families, based on income and family size. Creating a state EITC would help low-income Connecticut families achieve self-sufficiency and address the growing disparity between high and low wage earners
- **Health Insurance for Adults and Children**—Expand the Nutmeg Health Partnership to qualify more adults, including those without children, for HUSKY by instituting a reasonable cost-sharing model that would include premiums paid by individuals on a sliding scale, based on income
- **Farming Finance Authority**—Establish a rural finance authority to provide resources for agricultural loan guarantees. We need more investment in the “seeding” of programs, encouraging research and innovation, and ensuring access to technology and other value-added resources for farms and farmland

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Making Connecticut Competitive in Maintaining and Creating Jobs

- **Manufacturing Property Tax Phase-Out**—Encourage business to upgrade and invest in manufacturing equipment to remain competitive and efficient
- **Economic Development Advocate**—Provide guidance to companies and individuals to navigate the bureaucracy and cut through red tape
- **Charting a Course to Development Success**—Reorganize and elevate the economic development apparatus of state government with a renewed focus on creating jobs. Streamline our insurance and banking agencies to better serve the mutual needs of these sectors, which are so crucial to Connecticut's economy
- **Turning Knowledge Into Jobs**
 - ◎ **"Engineering Connecticut" forgivable loan program** to encourage more engineering graduates through a scholar-to-work system to stay and work in the state
 - ◎ **"You Belong" graduate reimbursement grants** to provide student loan forgiveness to Connecticut doctoral program graduates who accept employment at a Connecticut-based institution of higher education and conduct university research in qualifying economically strategic fields
 - ◎ **"Yankee Ingenuity" centers of excellence** to create job-generating partnerships between academic research and the business community that can also attract private sector and federal investments
 - ◎ **"Connecticut Imagination" challenge grants** to provide university R&D challenge grants modeled on Connecticut's endowment match program.
 - ◎ **"DREAM Grants"**—Development, research, and economic assistance matching grant program designed to leverage private R&D investment to encourage micro-businesses and sole proprietorships to partner with local colleges and universities to encourage partnerships between business and local colleges
- **Reel Relief**—Attract movie studio projects and thereby create jobs
- **Venture Capital**—Renew the state's effort to attract venture capital and sustain economic development

Connecticut Jobs for the 21st Century



Unlocking the Gridlock: A Transportation Policy for All of Connecticut

- **Commuter Mass Transit**
 - ◎ **Expand mass transit**—Move forward on the proposed commuter line between New Haven and Hartford
 - ◎ **Create incentives for telecommuting**—Provide incentives for telecommuting and flextime to ease highway congestion
 - ◎ **New Britain- Hartford busway**—Capitalize on new money available under the new federal transportation act to make this a reality
 - ◎ **Bus connector from the New Haven-Springfield train to Bradley International Airport**—Enable people from downtown Hartford, downtown Springfield, and downtown New Haven to have a mass transit option for getting to Bradley
 - ◎ **Create transportation hubs**—Make funds available for the creation of transportation hubs. Integrate buses and trains in one location that makes their use realistic for commuters and visitors
 - ◎ **Study the viability of investing in commuter rail infrastructure**—Link New London to Central and Western Massachusetts
- **Rail Freight and Roads**
 - ◎ **Increase incentives to move freight by rail**—Fund construction projects that would improve the overall viability of freight trains in Connecticut. Provide a fund solely to help businesses connect to or improve their use of rail. Extending tracks, building sidings, etc.
 - ◎ **Establish a freight terminal at Bradley International Airport**—Make freight access to Bradley more practical and rail service available to this new terminal.
 - ◎ **Additional weigh stations for trucks along I-95**
- **Deep Water Ports**—Better utilize the deep water ports in Bridgeport, New Haven and New London by creating stronger linkage with freight

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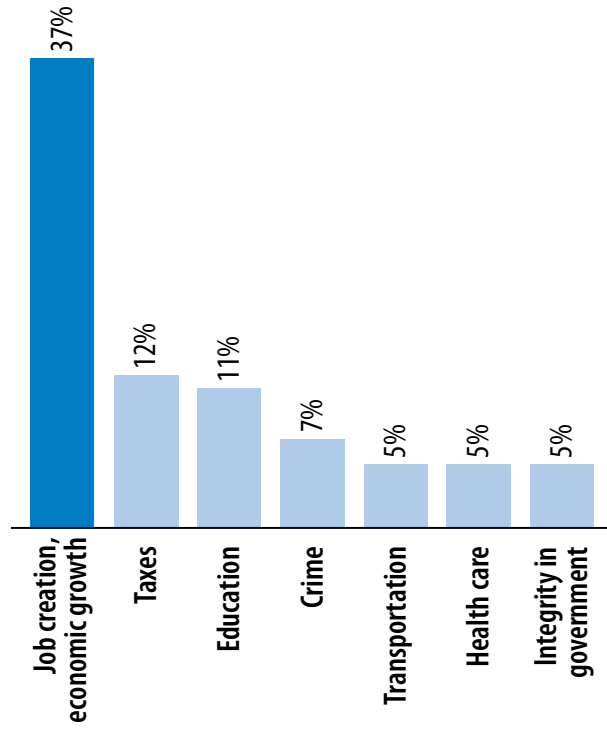


Working Toward Energy Independence

- **Distributed Generation State/Municipal Loan Program**—Create a state/municipal loan program that allows corporations and manufacturing facilities to install various forms of distributed/alternative electric generation within their facilities, which will allow them to be fully or partially removed from the electric transmission grid
- **Create an Energy Investment Loan Fund**—Develop a program that offers a reduced-rate interest loan to finance business construction that improves energy efficiency or uses a renewable energy system
- **Provide a “Green Building” Business Tax Credit**—Provide a tax credit for all new construction or rehabilitation for businesses in CT that use a “green building” model—buildings that are not only environmentally sound, healthy places to work, but are also more efficient and profitable
- **Promote Cleaner Transportation Practices**—Begin “piloting” fuel cell buses, considering permanent sales tax exemptions for alternative fuel vehicles

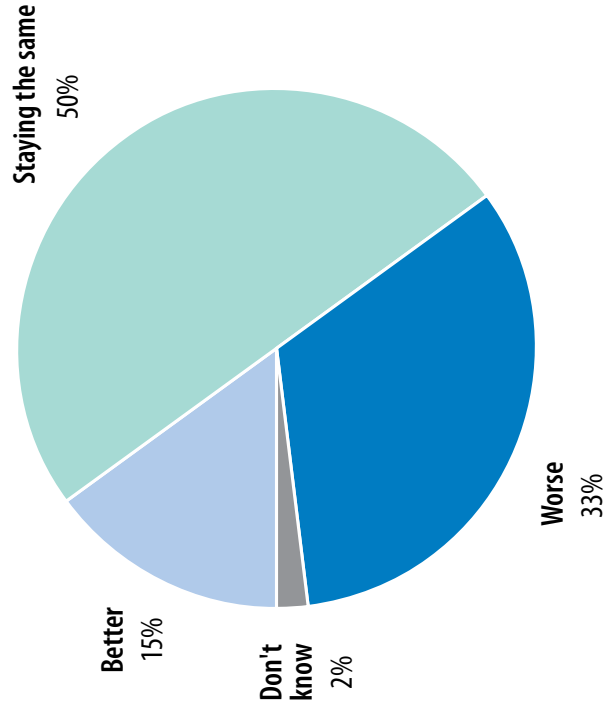
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What do you think is the most important
problem facing Connecticut today?



SOURCE: Hartford Courant/University of Connecticut Poll, Published 2/2/06

Connecticut residents see things getting...



SOURCE: Hartford Courant/University of Connecticut Poll, Published 2/2/06